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## 24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/08/03 13:55

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Hey NorCal 944-SPEC racers,

What do you guys want to do about the 24 Hours of LeMons race at Thunderhill December 27-28, 2008?

It sucks they don't have a NorCal LeMons race at the end of October like they did last year and running a race between the Xmas holidays and New Years might be tough for some families but you see how restless we get with just one month of downtime. :laugh:

I know Jeremy, Jove and their team will be running a 944 at this event, don't know if the "Driving while Awesome" team still have a running 944. They finished 10th in their 944 at last years December event at Thunderhill.

So, who's crazy enough to do this?

Our "Fish out of Water" 944 LeMons car will need some fenders and doors pounded out.

It'll need the tail lights and head lights to be put back in to run at Thunderhill.

I have the used suspension parts I got from EASY from the residual value of the last LeMons race that needs to be installed.

Other to do: a/c delete and cat. removal.

So I'm starting the team roster of crazy's:

1. Ron
2. Aubie
3. Ken
4. John
5. Kimberly

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by rd7839 - 2008/08/03 15:30

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I would be interested. I still have 250lb coils for the front that i took off my car as well as some torsion bars of undetermined size. I'm not sure, but I may also still have the Bilstein shocks that came off it as well. I've got a few harness parts as well that I took out of my Boxster but they may be expired.

I don't have any vacation plans around xmas so I should be free.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Litespeeds - 2008/08/03 15:56

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I'll have to think about this one. Not the best time to run an enduro race. I thought you guys were planning on doing the 25 Hours of T-Hill in Dec.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/08/03 17:21

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Hey Sid,

The 25 Hours of Thunderhill is a completely different type of race and we don't know what we are going to do yet.

I know Greg, Rick and Steve are interested in doing it.

The 25 Hours is a very expensive and I don't think I have enough money to run this year.

The 24 Hours of LeMons on the other hand is pretty cheap to run.

I'm not saying I'll be able to make the LeMons race because of the date but I can help build out the car.

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The "Fish out of Water" car will be a much more competitive this time out with suspension and tires on a track like Thunderhill.  
The course will just use the east track of Thunderhill and will be 1.3 miles instead of the normal 3.0 miles and the front straight will have chicanes to slow everyone down.

Hey Ron,

I have you down as the first crazy. ;)

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Jump07 - 2008/08/04 10:48

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Jove and I will be driving the "Captain America" 944 in the LeMons race this December. We almost have the vacuum hose issues resolved. I assume our old LeMons teammates Rod and Van will join us again. This car will be MUCH more competitive and fun to drive than our old "Planet Hell" Camry.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/09/10 20:58

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Hi Jeremy,

You, Jove and your LeMons team might have to carry the 944 torch for the December LeMons race. Don't have anyone other than Ron showing interest to race during the holidays and the Oct 18 registration deadline is coming up.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by whaxed - 2008/09/11 23:58

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Let me talk to a few friends. I know a couple people just starting out that might be interested in running the Fish out of Water car with Ron. I need to see if they want to put together the effort to get the car into shape as well. And who knows, I might get pulled in as well...

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Gary\_44 - 2008/09/12 10:22

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Sounds like a great way to get some rookie seat time. I just dont see where I'd find time to assist in the car prep, so I can't in good conscience just show up as a driver.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/09/17 11:07

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Hi Gary,

You'll welcome to have a seat. This is perfect for a rookie. If you can survive the carnage and contact of a LeMons race, a NASA race will be a walk in the park. Contact in a NASA race is frowned upon and if you're a rookie you can lose your racing license.  
I still need one more 944-SPEC racer for the minimum four person team.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/09/28 17:04

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Looks like I'll be able to make it to the LeMons race. :woohoo:

My first order of business was to recruit John @ EASY to join the team. John gives us a good chance to get back into the race if we get hit and can bring lots of spare parts.

Welcome the 2008 "Fish out of Water" LeMons team!

1. Ron
2. Aubie
3. Ken
4. John
5. Kimberly

Something came up for Gary and he won't be able to make it.

We'll be joining three other 944 teams this year. Jeremy and Jove's team, the Santa Cruz "Driving while Awesome" team and my understanding is Strasse Porsche parts will be fielding a 944 team also. B)

Good luck to all the 944 teams in the "Arse Freeze Apalooza" 24 Hours of LeMons race n December!

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Litespeeds - 2008/09/29 09:26

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So what new theme have you come up with for this year Ken? I am sure Art will be glad to see the LeMon's car out of his lot. :laugh:

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/09/29 13:32

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TRASH-e :P

You guys will see the new theme soon.

I'm working with the guy that build the harpoon cannon last year to build me a couple of robotic arms. ;)

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Gary\_44 - 2008/09/29 16:18

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Now I'm really bummed I have to miss it.

I always wanted to drive a car with robotic arms:)

Take lots of pics for us.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Litespeeds - 2008/09/30 10:08

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Only Ken could come up with ideas like that. Guess too many years working at Pixar can do that to you. ;)

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/10/14 11:32

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Refueling speed in the LeMons is not as critical as the 25 Hours of Thunderhill but John did modified a gas filler neck for our LeMons car.

The unleaded gas nozzle restrictor has been removed. This simple mod. could have moved us up to two places from 6th to 4th on the 25 Hours by cutting our refueling time from 2 minutes 30 seconds for five gallons to approx. 25 seconds. And yes we will have such a mod. for the 2009 25 Hours of Thunderhill car. ;)

<http://944-spec.org/gallery/LeMons2008/filleroutside.jpg>

<http://944-spec.org/gallery/LeMons2008/fillerinside.jpg>

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/11/12 22:36

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Our normal race season is over and now the focus has been shifted to the LeMons race.

Last year we just put safety equipment on a stock 944 we bought off of craigslist and pray the engine won't blow up and it would hold together.

We didn't know what kind of car we had but it held together and the engine turned out to be decent.

This year we will have a much better prepared car. Base on the assigned residual value from the last LeMons race the car now has a set of used Koni's in the rear and a set of used Bilsteins in the front. Front/rear sway bars from a 944 turbo.

Bill Pennock gave me a set of Welt 250lb front springs.

The a/c system has been removed with our \$3 homemade a/c delete bracket.

The catalytic converter was also removed and a straight pipe welded in it's place.

There was a oil leak from the oil pan gasket. Since we had to drop the oil pan to replace the gasket I had a oil pan baffle installed.

The motor mounts needed to be replaced. A set of used but decent motor mounts were installed.

Special thanks to one of our sponsors EASY for donating the motor mounts, drop links and rear sway bar mounting hardware, front sway bar mounting hardware, steering rack tie rods and whatever else I need. I was running low on the allowable budget and that helps.

The rear seat support seemed to flex a little on the floorpan. A steel bar has been welded between the left door sill side and the center tunnel for reinforcement.

Momo seat has been installed on sliders.

FYI on our progress.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/12/18 15:06

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The LeMons race is almost here. :woohoo:

Brand new set of Hankook R-S2's mounted on cookie cutters are on the car now. LeMons requires minimum 190 treadwear tires so our Toyo RA1's or R888's are not legal.

Radio box and PTT button on steering wheel installed.

transponder installed.

Minor problem with alternator repaired.

All fluids checked.

Weather forecast looks pretty good but installed new wiper blades just in case.

The car is ready to go!

John is putting together a spare parts inventory to bring with him.

B)

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Sterling Doc - 2008/12/18 17:30

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Good Luck Guys!

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/12/18 21:06

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Hey Thanks Eric!

I believe we have a very reliable car.  
If we can keep from being hit we should be able to finish.  
The LeMons is part endurance race and part demolition derby. :laugh:

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Jump07 - 2008/12/22 18:49

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I am so bummed we won't be joining you out there. We never got around to doing the engine work on the 944. It looks like they aren't doing an Altamont LeMons next year. We are talking about doing the one in Reno on May 23-24. Good luck and survive!

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Gary\_44 - 2008/12/28 14:39

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Can't wait to hear how it went, gotta see some pics!  
I kept checking the weather in Willows, looks like at 42-48 degrees and possible showers it was a good Freeze-Your-Arse-a-Palooza.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/12/29 10:17

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Hi Gary,

We had fun. Weather was on the cold side but no rain for the weekend.  
Our car was reliable and made it thru the race which was no surprise.  
Full story to come. ;)

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/12/29 12:49

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O.K., here's a tease.

<http://944-spec.org/gallery/2008LeMons/on3wheels.jpg>

Not quite a spec suspension as we get on three wheels. :laugh:

This was on Sunday. Our robotic hand with the dust broom was knocked off on Saturday.

<http://944-spec.org/gallery/2008LeMons/trashe2008team.jpg>

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Big Dog - 2008/12/29 21:15

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Great tease, Ken.

I love the car. Is that spec legal in NorCal. If so, I want one for each fender.

Big Dog

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2008/12/31 00:22

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Hi Jim,

It's a NorCal thing only! :lol:

Thanks to Aubie for writing the LeMons report:

<http://944spec.org/944SPEC/content/view/141/9/>

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by rd7839 - 2009/01/01 10:59

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Boy, was that fun!! Some of the best racing I've been involved in so far! Count me in next year. In fact if anybody comes across a \$500 candidate let me know and maybe we can enter two cars. It's well worth it.

Kim had a great time as well. Her last time on track after she settled in, I was able to coach her over the radio and she took off from there! she passed a few cars and held off a bunch and pulled away from some fast cars. In the end, she got greedy and tried to go through turn 5 without braking and spun sending us out of the race for the last time. Better to make a mistake being aggressive than too timid.

Early in my first stint, I got hit going two wide in turn 3 which took off our dust pan from the robotic arms. From that time on, it was a free for all. I was passing 4 WIDE into almost every turn! I even passed 3 wide at the top of turn 5!!!! It felt like I passed hundreds of cars in situations I never would dream of placing a car. I remember passing 5 cars in turn 3 alone, going from the inside, to squeezing in between cars getting a donut on my door and finally ending up outside of another car! And that was repeated many, many times over the 2 days. All through it our little 944 ran great! I have so much more respect for Porsche red headed step child now than ever. The engine still had plenty of power even if it was burning 2 quarts of oil an hour. The handling made it possible to place that car wherever there was an opening in traffic, and strong enough to take a few hits and keep going. On top of all that, we got great gas mileage as well!

I want to thank all my teammates. I really enjoyed hanging out with Jim and John from EASY, and their driving was great. Aubie laying down some blistering lap times, and who knew he could preach as well. Kim became a racer that weekend and I'm VERY proud of her(she swears she will never ask why I'm not going faster again!)! But most of all I'd like to thank Ken for all his hard work, without which we never would have had a team, much less a car. Those of you from our region already know the work he does as director of our region but those who don't, Ken is the reason we have such a great racing atmosphere. His work from finding sponsors and prize money, to finding us a place with PRC and away from the Honda challenge guys. I know he has helped me out in a lot of ways that made the difference of racing on the weekend and staying home.

Thanks Ken, and see y'all next year

Ron

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Gary\_44 - 2009/01/01 21:12

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Great write-up and pics. I saw you guys with both robot arms intact on the starting grid video...  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWUtspI0eLM> at 3:58. You guys had the best sounding exhaust leaving the grid!

I'm truly bummed that Derrick and I had to cancel on team Trash-e. Sounds like a one of a kind experience. Where else is your competition a couple of Foster Farms chickens, a NASA X-7, a Vacation car, or the Bi-polar express? It's also a downer that Altamont won't host a Lemons race in my back yard this year.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Big Dog - 2009/01/03 10:12

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Ron, It sounds like you all had a GREAT time. Congrats. And congrats on making your wife a racer. Time to get her a competition license and a set of tools!;)

It sounds like that event is a great way to get comfortable with traffic and overtaking. I am looking for you to be even faster this next season, my friend.

I would also like to echo your comments about the revered series director, Ken Huey. When I found a car on Craigs list that was in the bay area, Ken went and checked it out, then went and purchased it for me, hoping to get his money back from me later, picked up the car, stored it, jump started it and generally went to a lot of trouble for a guy that is not even in his region. He wouldn't even accept any cash for gas much less any of his time.

Thanks for the post and get your wife out and into the DE program. We need a LADY racing with us guys to bring some class to the class!:cheer:

Big Dog

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by Litespeeds - 2009/01/04 19:41

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Sounded like I missed out on a lot of fun this year. I am so glad the LeMon's car made it through the end of the race for the 2nd time. Considering it was just sitting around for over a year, that just shows how strong the motor and tranny is on this car.

Do you guys think it can start and finish a 3rd time or is it time to part it out and junk it? I didn't get to see any pictures of the car before the start of the race. Please post those if you have them.

I am sure Kim had the experience of a lifetime and now she knows that 944Spec Racing is NOTHING even remotely close to the 24 Hours of LeMon's race. :ohmy: :laugh:

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by paluck - 2009/01/04 21:37

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Hello,  
I had posted a message over at the Rennlist boards about a 2009 LeMons entry and someone recommended I contact the spec 944 NorCal group as there were people here that ran last year. I'm looking to form or get with a team for a 2009 event - preferrably Buttonwillow in Aug. Running a 924 or 944 would be ideal - I time trial my 944 with PCA, so I have a lot of seat and wrench time with 944's - but I'm open to any sort of vehicle. Sounds like the folks that ran the Arse Freeze had a good time, so if you're looking for another driver for a 2009 - lemmie know.

-Mike  
1989 944 S2  
SF East Bay

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2009/01/05 16:25

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Hi Folks,

Sorry for the late response but just got back yesterday from a ski vacation with the family.

Ron,  
Glad you guys had fun! Finding another sub \$500 944 shouldn't be too hard, finding a place to store the car is a pain. It would be nice to field a second team. If for no other reasons then to steal parts from. :laugh:  
I'll drop by EASY tomorrow to pick-up a hood latch to replace the one we "borrow" from your spec car and ship it out to you.

Kim,  
We're all proud of you. It was a night and day difference between your first session and your last session. We witness someone who just run HPDE develop into a racer right before our eyes. Congratulations!

Gary,  
You missed a fun event. You and Kim were one of my reasons to do the LeMons at such a inconvenient time (for me). I figured if you guys could make it thru a 100 plus field of mayhem and craziness, you guys will do well if you ever wanted to go into 944-SPEC racing.  
Also if there was going to be any car to car contact, it was better to get it out of your system with the LeMons car than with your nice car.

Big Dog Jim,  
I love this class and how everyone helps each other out. It's not unique to NorCal. I witness this with the other regions when I was a Millers.

Sid,  
Our LeMons car is a mechanically strong car, it's not ready to be parted out yet. I wasn't sure if the car was burning oil or blowing oil out thru the dipstick opening. The dipstick keeps popping up and the engine area around the dipstick was coated with oil. This is the same problem Rick had at Infineon and we were fortunate it didn't start smoking. It's a simple fix by just replacing the dipstick with a new one or a used one with a better rubber seal.  
Every time the car survives it's come back stronger. I estimated with our suspension upgrade the car was capable of placing in the top 15 if we kept the car on the track. Looking at the data and using a conservative 2:00 per lap we could have placed 8th if we kept the car moving. Of course "could have, should have" is what all the teams say. :lol:  
Don't know how much we can spend yet until I get the assigned residual value of the car by Jay Lamm (the LeMons promoter) but it will be a faster car the next time out. ;)

Most all of the body damage was done at the last LeMons race at Altamont. This was when the Road Warrior style nerf bars were legal. Throughout the Altamont race I remember less than a handful of black flags thrown and getting hit was a accepted part of the LeMons. After the Altamont race, nerf bars and wheel cages were no longer legal which is a good thing since our 944 was not armored.

What I don't like is now they went the other extreme of throwing a black flag for spins, four wheels off, passing under yellow or incidental contact. Passing under yellow I understand but everything else is part of racing and I think they should just let people race. :ohmy:

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by pixrken - 2009/01/05 17:15

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paluck wrote:  
Hello,

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I had posted a message over at the Rennlist boards about a 2009 LeMons entry and someone recommended I contact the spec 944 NorCal group as there were people here that ran last year. I'm looking to form or get with a team for a 2009 event - preferably Buttonwillow in Aug. Running a 924 or 944 would be ideal - I time trial my 944 with PCA, so I have a lot of seat and wrench time with 944's - but I'm open to any sort of vehicle. Sounds like the folks that ran the Arse Freeze had a good time, so if you're looking for another driver for a 2009 - lemmie know.

-Mike  
1989 944 S2  
SF East Bay

Hi Mike,

I'll keep you in mind if there is an opening.

The Buttonwillow event is in the middle of our normal 944-SPEC race season so most likely we won't make it. The 2009 Thunderhill LeMons is at a better time Nov. 21-22, 2009 and my prediction is a lot people will want a seat for that race.

We'll see if fielding a second LeMons car pans out.

A 944 or 924S makes the most sense to us because:

1. We're familiar with these cars. Both handling and working on it mechanically.
2. We have a lot of spare parts for these cars.
3. If the car is damaged beyond repair, we just cannibalize it for spare parts for our spec cars. B)

The \$500 LeMons car is very deceptive. You still need a legal roll cage, roll cage paddings, race seat, 5 or 6 point harness, kill switch and fire suppression system which is not part of the \$500. If you put the effort and expense of putting all these safety equipment into a 944 you end up with a entry level 944-SPEC car. I can make the argument that running in 944-SPEC is cheaper than running in the LeMons because there is no \$500 car entry fee plus \$100 per driver and less chance your car will get hit.

Your car won't be very competitive with stock suspension in 944-SPEC but the same holds true for the LeMons. We had quite a few racers that started out with just stock suspension and upgraded when time/money permits. Either format is a lot of fun.

Just a open invitation if you want to join us in 944-SPEC. We have a great group of friendly racers.

I'll know more when the 2009 Thunderhill LeMons gets closer and will keep you posted.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by paluck - 2009/01/06 12:55

Must have clicked something wrong - thought I posted a response last night...

Thanks Ken

yes - the \$500 would be just the start. Add in rollcage, seat, tires and you're already quadruple your initial investment. Spreading it over several drivers helps though.

I've thought about the spec 944, but do you do any events for the 3 litres here in Norcal? I have a setup already that's fairly similar to what would be run in spec 944

New arrival of a baby will prevent me from hitting regular events for the next couple seasons though - so maybe after that. Back on Lemons - let me know if you or others are interested in building up a second car - I'd actually prefer to participate in a car prep as well. I'm a good worker - I even do torsion bars :blink:

-Mike  
paluck@hotmail.com  
SF East Bay  
1989 944 S2

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by JerryW - 2009/01/06 19:50

Mike -- I think I was the one to point you here.

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There are no SuperCup cars in NorCal so far (Where your S2 would run). It may be the case (like the original group of 944Spec guys in NorCal) that you have to start somewhere and others will join later if you want to run Cup/SuperCup.

Otherwise as Ken mentions -- come run with 944Spec !

The Lemons later in the year at T'hill is probably where we will see the most interest.

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by paluck - 2009/01/06 20:44

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Yes - thanks Jerry.

I think this year I'll aim for the lemons and hopefully in the future spec 944.

I would need need a little time anyway to figure out how to obtain another 944 - my wife would think I'm nuts.

"But you already have one of those same damn cars - why would you need a second one?!?!"

:ohmy:

-Mike

paluck@hotmail.com

1989 944 S2

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## Re:24 Hours of LeMons in December

Posted by JerryW - 2009/01/06 21:06

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You say that like it's a problem ! We have 3 944's !

You start by saying the 1st one is too nice to be a race car and you need to get something you can wad up and walk away from, then that that one really doesn't work for what you need (eg no one races S2's ) and then well we should just keep them as spares,:laugh:

(Bought the 84 originally, then gave that to my son for his project car, and bought the S2 to replace it. Persuaded the wife that the S2 was too nice to track and that there were more racing parts for 911s so bought a cheap 964. Time trialled the 964 with PCA-GGR until I decided it was too good to wreck, found the spec car and built that). Somehow managed to not have to get rid of any so far !

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